

# Abe's Skipper meets with his warriors

## Captain's Call lets commanding officer, Sailors know where we're at, and where we're going...

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Recently, Abe's Commanding Officer, Capt. Doug Dupouy met with Sailors to let the crew know where we are and what direction we should be going in.

According to the captain, his recent meeting with the CNO left a lasting impression, and he has taken his message to heart. "The command master chief and I got a chance to meet with the CNO while we were in Everett following our deployment. Adm. Clark has five major priorities. The first subject is manning. There's a lot of work going on from recruiting on down and hopefully we're doing our part to help our Sailors stay Navy."

The captain continued to relate the other topics of importance to Abe Sailors.

"Secondly, current readiness covers the funding to buy and operate right now. Future readiness, his third topic, relates to future contracts for ships and aircraft. It's a balancing act for those two items," said Dupouy.

"Quality of life, including facilities at bases, housing, and shipboard life is also a major concern of the CNO and our chain of command as well," added Dupouy.

"Finally, the fifth topic, and tricky to define, is alignment. Basically it's getting everyone working in the same direction. A lot of that is based on the flow of information. We can have a lot of effort but if it's going in different direction then we won't get anywhere. In addition, we have to make sure the right message is getting passed down and everybody has accurate information," Dupouy emphasized.

"I think he's (CNO) doing a great job of getting his message down to the deckplates and we see a lot of this with regard to retention and career choices. As a ship we're marching in that

direction. We have a long way to go, but our retention team is working on that," Dupouy added.

"How many people know what we're trying to accomplish in the shipyard? It's important to know what the big picture is and how we're progressing. We're going to get the word passed so everyone knows what we need to accomplish and how we're progressing," said Dupouy, as he cleared up some of the questions regarding commuted rations, ferry rates, and berthing arrangements.

"The shipyard mission is as important as going on deployment. It's a six-month period and what we accomplish in that time is a direct reflection of how we do on deployment. We had an extremely successful deployment. I attribute that, in part, to having the equipment we needed to get the job done. We didn't have equipment failures that inhibited us from doing our mission. I attribute that to the last PIA a year prior to the deployment," Dupouy said.

"The mission here now is to get things done and get the ship ready for our next deployment so we can concentrate on operating and not on fixing things. We have to hit the deck running and finish the job to keep the four-day workweek. The key is working hard and accomplishing as much as we can so we can make it happen," Dupouy said.

As for what Abe Sailors can expect for the next deployment, the captain had some encouraging words for those who will be here next summer.

"When the deployment schedule comes out, we will get it to you. It's still getting chopped," he said. "Our next WestPac is scheduled to start June 13 and some of the port visits tentatively scheduled include Guam, Pusan Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia."

The commanding officer also offered advice to make the most of an otherwise challenging time, and he asked



Capt. D. K. Dupouy

that all Sailors take the time to do their jobs proudly and safely, and use their free time to enjoy what Washington has to offer.

"Take advantage of the recreational activities offered here. There's fishing, whale watching, mountain biking, you name it. You are all doing a great job. Play safe, work safe. Get the job at hand done and done right the first time."

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